

MIAMI SPRINGS

NEIGHBORHOOD JOURNAL



City of Miami Springs

201 Westward Drive
Miami Springs, FL 33166
305-805-5000

Mayor

Richard L. Wheeler

Council Members

James Caudle
Marcia Fulton
Helen L. Gannon
Rob Youngs

City Manager

Maria V. Davis

www.ci.miami-springs.fl.us

Annexation Is The Word

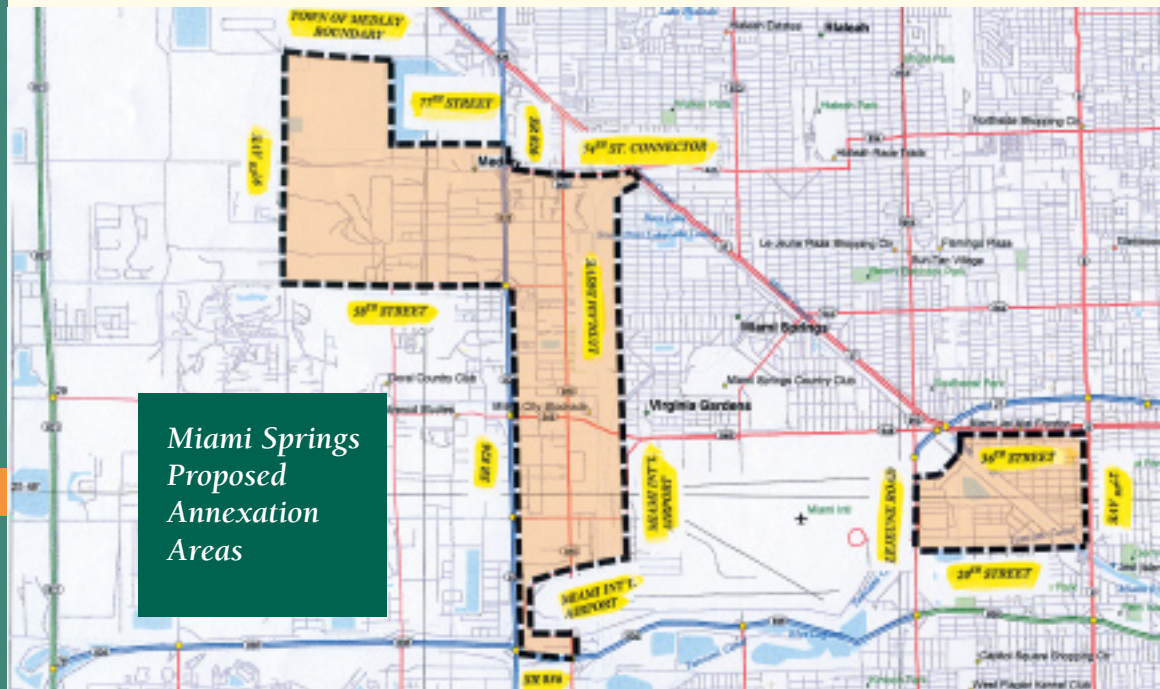
The new buzzword around town is "Annexation." The City Council has taken another bold step toward initiating an investigative process of the pros and cons of annexation. On the plus side, annexation would increase the commercial tax base of the City, while at the same time reducing the tax burden on citizens and their residential properties.

Existing municipalities can annex unincorporated areas or enclaves in Miami-Dade County after appearing before a number of county boards, committees and, finally, the County Commission. The Commission appears to be generally in favor of municipal annexation, but final approval is often conditioned on financial impact on the county.

Miami Springs is competing with Medley, Virginia Gardens, and the soon-to-be-incorporated area of Doral for large unincorporated properties west of the City. (Copies of annexation maps and materials are available for review and inspection in the City's Planning Department.) While there are no existing agreements at this time, the City hopes that it can successfully negotiate an appropriate division of the area with the other cities or prevail before the County Commission when the final decisions are made.

In accordance with the City's open-community discussion and debate policy, no decisions about the annexation process will be determined until all the related matters have been presented before the City Council and the public has had an opportunity to express their opinions.

(Continued on page 2)



*Miami Springs
Proposed
Annexation
Areas*



Councilwoman Helen Gannon, Councilman Jim Caudle, Mayor Richard Wheeler, Councilwoman Marcia Fulton, Councilman Rob Youngs



Dan McCulley is the new Food & Beverage Manager for the Miami Springs Country Club.



Chef Ramon Victorio has also joined the staff at the Miami Springs Country Club as Executive Chef.

Miami Springs Country Club Update

New Team On Board

Since the beginning of February, new Food & Beverage Manager Dan McCulley and Executive Chef Ramon Victorio have been busy enhancing and improving the Country Club's menu and services.

McCulley brings 30 years of experience and knowledge he learned as General Manager of John Martin's, a popular Coral Gables eatery, and from O'Casey's Restaurant and Irish Pub on US 1, and Joe's Stone Crab and the Carlyle on Miami Beach. He said, "Miami Springs is a refreshingly unique community that deserves a class-A Country Club. I am very happy to be working with this community and the administration to make that happen." One of his top priorities is training the wait staff to ensure the best service possible.

Chef Ramon's culinary magic nearly doubled the customer satisfaction ratings at the Embassy Suites Crown Sterling Hotel, where he served as executive chef since 1999. He knows his way around a busy kitchen and how to please even the pickiest palates. He has already instituted changes in the kitchen and is excited about the potential of the Club. Chef Victorio says, "The people that I have met so far have greeted me with warmth and good wishes. I look forward meeting more residents at the Greenery Restaurant and serving them from our new menu."

With their combined expertise, Dan McCulley and Chef Ramon Victorio are the perfect ingredients for a great dining experience at the Country Club.

The Greenery hours of operation: Open seven days a week for lunch and dinner... also weekend breakfast and brunch.

(Continued from page 1)

Jumping feet first into the annexation process is a clear sign that the City Council is fully aware of the rising costs of government and financial burdens that continue to impact every citizen. This is the perfect time for proactive exploration to provide the City with financial resources that are not currently available and secure supplementary tax relief.

Rest assured, annexation will not change the longstanding and highly desirable character of Miami Springs; it will ensure its continued existence.

City Council Action on the Net

<http://ci.miami-springs.fl.us>

For the first time ever, City Council agendas, minutes and summary actions are published on the City's web site. To view the information, double click City Clerk listed under City Departments. A brief description of the duties of the Clerk will come up on the screen with an option to click on the Council actions, agendas or minutes.

The Miami Springs City Council meets in regular session the second and fourth Mondays of the month, and the agendas will usually be posted on the web the Friday before the meeting. Every effort will be made to have the summary actions posted on the web the Monday following the Council meeting. Minutes may take 2-3 weeks since they are posted only after Council approves them.

We are confident that all interested citizens will make use of this valuable service in the comfort of their own homes.

The City Clerk's office is planning to post resolutions adopted by the City Council on the web in the near future.

The Miami Springs Code of Ordinances may be accessed at:

<http://www.municode.com>, select "Online Codes," choose "Florida," double click on "Miami Springs Code of Ordinances."

The Code of Ordinances may also be accessed through a link in the City Clerk's page.



Community Policing Office Addresses Citizens' Concerns

The Community Policing Office (CPO) works with citizens to solve problems. Recently, Joe Podgor, longtime ecology activist and chair of the Miami Springs Ecology Board, expressed concerns about vehicles parked along the Melrose Canal. Irreparable damage is being done to the exposed tree roots, thereby endangering the trees; grass and topsoil are diminishing and weakening the canal banks; and, vehicle fluids leak into the ground and pollute the canal bank and water.

Mr. Podgor's concerns were raised at a recent Council meeting. City Manager Maria Davis and Police Chief H. Randall Dilling assigned the CPO to work with Mr. Podgor to assess the problem and find possible resolutions. Currently, a dredging and restoration project is underway in the Melrose Canal that is being managed by Public Service Director, Denise Yoezle. Ms. Yoezle called on the Miami Springs Parks and Parkways Board and arrived at several options and forwarded them to Ms. Davis for Council consideration. As a result, the City has authorized "No Parking" signs to be posted along the canal banks and have made an official request for the signs to the Miami-Dade County Public Works Signs and Signals Division.

CPO Staff will closely monitor this project to insure a successful and timely conclusion. In the meantime, we request citizen cooperation by not parking along the Melrose Canal banks, along North and South Melrose Drives and North and South Esplanade Drives. Together, we can continue to keep Miami Springs Beautiful!

The CPO staff strives daily to resolve community problems and maintain the standards that Miami Springs residents have come to expect and appreciate. Our motto is getting the job done Without Fail! (W.O.F.)



What Lies Beneath

This is the valve that necessitated closing two 12" water mains and left half of the City's residents without water for three hours. In an effort to minimize disruption of services to the residents, the work was completed between midnight and 3:00 a.m. The City apologizes for any inconvenience caused by the project, but it was a much needed repair to the circa 1945 valve.



More Improvements in the City

In an effort to avert any future flooding problems in the City when the rainy season arrives, the City is utilizing grant funding to improve storm drainage around Plover, Cardinal, Wren and Esplanade. This is another example of your City working for you.



Garbage & Bulk Trash Pickup

The City of Miami Springs would like to remind all of its citizens about the schedules and fees for garbage and bulk trash pickup to avoid any inconvenience or confusion.

Garbage collectors provide either alley or curbside service two times each week, either on Mondays and Thursdays or on Tuesdays and Fridays, depending on your location. The 90-gallon containers are provided for garbage, lawn clippings, and leaves only.

Bulk trash collection occurs one time each week, and there is no additional charge beyond your regular \$17.95 monthly fee for the collection of piles of debris that are 6 cubic yards or less.

If you need to dispose of large amounts of tree cuttings, furniture, and other bulky items that are larger than 6 cubic yards, a charge will be added to your regular bill of \$17.95. The fees for collecting larger piles of debris are \$66.25 for a 1/2 truck load, \$122.50 for a full truck load, \$178.75 for 1-1/2 truck loads, \$235.00 for 2 truck loads, \$291.25 for 2-1/2 truck loads, and \$347.50 for 3 truck loads. These charges are in accordance with City Code Section 93-07, Schedule of Special Waste Collection Charges.

The City will not pick-up building materials such as roofing material, concrete block, tile, drywall, metal, rock, and dirt. The City will not pick-up chemicals such as oil-based paints, solvents, bug and weed killers. You may dispose of these chemicals through the Miami Dade County Home Chemical Collection Program. For more information call 305-597-1768.

Please remember that there are no free pick-ups of large piles of trash that exceed 6 cubic yards.



The Green Market Festival *Blooms in Miami Springs*



Vibrant flowers and plants, farm-fresh produce, mouth-watering baked goods, and exotic crafts displayed and sold at Miami Springs' Green Market Festival have drawn favorable reviews from buyers and strollers alike. Nikki Jester, long-time resident and perennial volunteer, said, "This is great fun! I get to see people I haven't seen in years and do some of my weekly shopping at the same time."

The City-sponsored event is scheduled to run every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. until May 31 under the tree-shaded median of Curtiss Parkway. Based on her company's experience in other cities, Market Company organizer Clair Tomlin believes that the Festival will gain community support in the weeks ahead, making it one of the most successful market festivals in South Florida.

All local, not-for-profit cultural and community organizations are invited and encouraged to take advantage of FREE booth space to distribute information or offer goods for sale. It's an excellent opportunity to introduce residents to your organization, get support for activities, or sign up new members. Or you can raise money for your group like the Miami Springs High School Athletic Club did by selling snow cones. Local business owners can offer their merchandise to first-time and regular customers in a pleasant setting.

If you're a shopper or prefer to just browse, the weekly Festival is the right place for you too. Bring your friends and family with you and enjoy the outdoor setting surrounded by truly enjoyable sights and aromas.

If you are interested in participating, vendor applications are available from the Market Company by calling 305-531-0038 or by visiting their website at www.themarketcompany.org.



You're Invited to an Open House

The Miami Springs Police Department invites all Miami Springs residents to an Open House on Saturday, May 3, at the Recreation Center. The day will kick off at 10:00 am with a Bicycle Safety Rodeo - a fun way to teach important safety rules to children. Every participant will receive a free bike helmet and t-shirt.

The fun will continue at noon at Prince Field with free food and rides for younger children. We'll be fingerprinting and photographing children for "Ident-a-kits," a valuable identification tool. Our own specialized units - Motorcycle Squad, K-9 and Bicycle Patrol - will give demonstrations. They'll be joined by other law enforcement agencies to demonstrate the latest crime solving technology and offer practical crime prevention tips.

Please plan to attend this event. More details will follow in the local paper and on our web site at www.miamispringspolice.com.

As always, if you have any questions, please call the Community Policing Office at 305-888-5286.





Cystic Fibrosis

Walk-A-Thon

On Sunday, May 4, at 5:00 p.m., the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation will conduct a 5K Sunset Stroll to raise awareness and funds for research for a cure. Cystic fibrosis is a life-threatening respiratory and digestive disease that affects 30,000 children and adults in the US, including several Springs' families. The City of Miami Springs is organizing a team of walkers who will seek pledges and donations for this great cause. If you're interested in walking with the team or in making a donation, please contact Alan Ricke at the Miami Springs Recreation Center at 305-805-5075.



Parks and Recreation Department

NEWS / EVENTS / ACTIVITIES



Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Activities

On Saturday, April 19th, the Parks and Recreation Department will host its annual Easter Egg Hunt at Prince Field. The fun begins at 9:30 am with pictures with the Easter Bunny inside the Field House. The mad dash for thousands of brightly colored Easter eggs begins promptly at 10:00 am. Children will be divided into three age groups for the Hunt - 3 years & under, 4 to 6 year olds and 7 to 10 year olds. Special prizes will be awarded for finding the special eggs. Stick around after the Hunt for more exciting games and prizes. If your child is planning on participating in the Easter Egg Hunt, please arrive on time and bring a container (Easter basket, bag, bucket, etc.) to carry the eggs.

New and Exciting Programs for the Entire Family

Join the Parks and Recreation Department in establishing new traditions as we introduce several new activities for Miami Springs residents.

On Saturday, May 3rd at 1:30 pm, we're inviting all Mothers and Daughters to join us for our first annual Tea Social. Meet your neighbors and friends at the Country Club and enjoy an old-fashioned afternoon tea social.

On Saturday, June 7th, we invite Fathers and Sons to join us for America's favorite pastime as we take in a Florida Marlins baseball game at Pro Player Stadium. The defending World Series Champion Anaheim Angels will be in town to challenge our Marlins. Hop on the bus from the Recreation Center at 4:00 pm and leave the driving to us. The first pitch is scheduled for 6:05 pm.

For more information on these activities, please contact the Recreation Center at 305-805-5075.



Girls to the Rescue

That's the name of the newest Pelican Playhouse production being performed in May at the Recreation Center's Cavalier Annex. "Girls to the Rescue" is a collection of four short plays featuring courageous, clever and determined girls from around the world. "Girls to the Rescue" is described as "...a powerful antidote to all those helpless princess stories." Six performances are scheduled for May 9, 10 & 11 (the perfect Mother's Day gift) and May 16, 17 & 18. Tickets for the shows may be purchased at the Recreation Center for two weeks leading up to the performances. For more information on joining or supporting the River Cities Pelican Playhouse, please call 305-884-6804.

Super Summer Program

Believe it or not, it's time to start planning for your child's summer vacation. And your best option is right here in your own back yard. The Parks and Recreation Department will begin registration for the 10-week summer program at the Recreation Center on May 1st. ONLY Miami Springs residents will be eligible to register during the month of May. On June 1st registration will be open to non-Miami Springs residents. Space in the Summer Program at the Recreation Center is limited, so don't delay. The Summer Program is available for children ages 6 to 13, and will run Monday - Friday from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. For more information, please contact the Recreation Center at 305-805-5075.

Now Hiring for Summer Programs

The City of Miami Springs Parks and Recreation Department is searching for dedicated individuals who are interested in a rewarding summer job. Applications are now being accepted for Recreation Leaders, Lifeguards and Cashiers. All of these positions are 40-hours-per-week seasonal positions and will last for the duration of the summer. All applicants must be at least 17 years old by June 1st and must meet other minimal training, background and drug screening requirements. For more information, please contact the Recreation Center at 305-805-5075 or the Municipal Pool at 305-805-5078.



Elderly Services Department

CITY OF MIAMI SPRINGS

The City of Miami Springs Senior Center, located on Prince Field at 343 Payne Drive, offers a variety of activities to older residents age 60 and over. The City's multipurpose Senior Center is open Monday through Friday from 9:15 am - 5:15 pm and provides older citizens with numerous opportunities.

- Improve their health by participating in the nutritionally balanced, daily lunch program, by attending the free exercise classes, and by obtaining valuable information from the free, health support screening offered each month
- Improve their knowledge through informal nutrition, health, crime and consumer education workshop scheduled throughout the year
- Obtain information and referral assistance to services available throughout the county
- Stay active by socializing with their peers, volunteering to help others and participating in recreational activities such as line dancing, oil painting classes, bingo, games, sing-alongs, exercise classes, and field trips
- Improve their use of leisure time with books, videos, magazines, puzzles and games available through the free loan library

Older citizens may also be eligible to utilize the Center's transportation service, shopping assistance or the home-delivered meal program. In addition to these core service offerings, the City of Miami Springs Senior Center plans special activities each month and residents are invited to attend.

Computer Classes for Seniors

The Miami Springs Senior Center offers a six-week computer course for seniors on Tuesday mornings from 10:00 am - 11:30 am. Instructor Merwyn Bernstein teaches students to: use E-mail and the Internet; surf the web for fun and research; use file management and system tools; and computer maintenance. Interested seniors are encouraged to call the Senior Center office at 305-805-5160 for course starting dates.

Computer Usage/Internet Access Available for Seniors

Older citizens are invited to utilize the Senior Center's computer room equipped with two large screen monitors and Internet access. Seniors may compose letters, explore the World Wide Web, or E-mail their relatives. Volunteers are also available, on a pre-arranged basis, to assist beginners in learning the basics. Individual instructions and guidance is offered free of charge. To schedule a tutoring session or time at the keyboard, call 305-805-5160.

Community Involvement Requested!

The Miami Springs Senior Center is seeking volunteers who would be willing to provide musical entertainment to the participants on occasion. If you play the piano or organ and would like to donate just one hour of your time, please call the Elderly Services Department at 305-805-5160 and ask to speak to Karen.

"Project Impact" Residential Shuttering Program

The Miami-Dade County Office of Emergency Management has a limited amount of funding available to provide window protection to low income, elderly residents of Miami Springs through its "Project Impact". To qualify, a resident must own and reside in a single-family home, be head-of-household, be 65 years or older and have a household income not exceeding \$20,000 per year. Project Impact will install aluminum panel hurricane shutters on homes for individuals who meet the requirements. Applications can be picked up at the Miami Springs Senior Center and returned there for forwarding. Proof of home ownership and income must be provided with each completed Project Impact Residential Shuttering Program application.

Life Support Initiative Assistance Program

Miami-Dade County has announced a temporary program to assist residents of Miami Springs who are having difficulty paying their water and sewer bills due to a severe financial hardship. Funds are available on a "first-come, first-served basis" through September 30, 2003 to provide a one-time, financial aid payment to those who have received a final or disconnection notice and who qualify based on the incomes of those residing in their home. For information on this program, please call Peter Rosa or Corey Jones at 305-347-4640 or call the Hialeah Community Action Agency (located at 300 East 1st Avenue) at 305-885-7514.





Miami Springs City Hall
201 Westward Drive
305-805-5000

www.ci.miami-springs.fl.us

C O N T A C T N U M B E R S

City Clerk	305-805-5006
Building, Zoning & Code Enforcement	305-805-5030
Finance	305-805-5000
Human Resources	305-805-5009
Public Works	305-805-5170
345 N. Royal Poinciana Blvd.	
Miami Springs Golf & Country Club	305-805-5180
650 Curtiss Parkway	
Miami Springs Police Department	305-888-9711
Community Policing Office	305-888-5286
274 Westward Drive	
Parks and Recreation	305-805-5075
1401 Westward Drive	
Elderly Services	305-805-5160
343 Payne Drive	
Miami Springs Branch Library	305-884-2575
401 Westward Drive	
Miami Springs Post Office	305-275-8777
107 Westward Drive	
Miami Springs-Airport Area Chamber of Commerce	305-883-3333
105 Westward Drive	
Miami-Dade Fire Station #35	305-888-1617
(non-emergencies)	

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